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NILANONT, YOUAPAPORN				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/534,546

Applicant(s)

TOMA ET AL.

Examiner

YOUAPORN NILANONT

Art Unit

4121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 May 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/11/2005, 2/8/2007
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 1-9 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:

- "tkhd" cited on page 4, line 7 is not included in Figure 2;
- "ctts" cited on page 4 line 16 is not included in Figure 2.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- "(RTTP)" on page 6, line 2 should be --(RTP)--;
- "frot end" on page 13, line 28 should be --front end--;
- "RTO packet" on page 23, line 6 should be --RTP packet--.

5. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

6. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

- "front end processing unit" cited in claim 1 is not described in the specification and has been construed as "RTSP processing unit 101" (see figure 10 and described on page 20, line 9-13);
- "control transmission unit" cited in claim 1 is not explicitly described in the specification and has been construed as a combination of "reproduction analysis unit 113" (see page 21, lines 19-24) and "RTSP processing unit 101" (see figure 10) because these two units as described perform same function as control transmission unit;
- "control transmission unit" cited in claim 6 is not explicitly described in the specification and has been construed as a combination of "reproduction analysis unit 113" (see page 21, lines 19-24), "conversion unit 114" (see page

- 22, lines 3-7), and "RTSP processing unit 101" (see figure 10) because these two units as described perform same function as control transmission unit;
- "packet generation unit" cited in claim 1 does not exist in the specification and has been construed as a combination of "RTP analysis unit 112" (see page 20, lines 27-30), "information acquisition unit 111" (see page 21, lines 8-10), and "RTP generation unit 102" (see page 22, lines 8-14);
 - "content transmission unit" cited in claim 1 does not appear in the specification and has been construed as "RTP delivery unit 103" (see page 22, lines 16-18).

Claim Construction

7. The term "intra-picture coded pictures" does not appear in the specification and has been construed as intra coded frames or I frames as known in the art regarding MPEG.
8. The term "head picture" has been construed as the first frame of the data unit which is assigned as the random access point.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
- The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
10. Claims 10 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

11. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the intra-picture coded pictures" in line 19 of page 48. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
12. Claim 16 recites the limitation "said packet generation unit" in lines 16-17 of page 50. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination, the term has been construed as said packet generation step cited in line 13 of the same page.
13. Claim 19 recites the limitation "the method" in line 13 of page 51. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination, the term has been construed as said program as cited in line 6 of the same page.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

14. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

15. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It recites a program "for extracting content data" and further explains a method that causes a computer to execute with steps in performing such method without claiming that such program is recorded on any physical computer-readable medium. Computer programs claimed as computer listings per se, i.e., the descriptions or expression of the programs, are not physical "things." They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not "acts" being performed. Such claimed computer programs do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements

of a computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized. See MPEP 2106.01 Section I. Functional Descriptive Material: "Data Structures" Representing Descriptive Material Per Se or Computer Programs Representing Computer Listings Per Se.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

16. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

17. Claims 1-3, 9-10, and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (U.S. Patent 6,134,243)

18. **Regarding claim 1**, the Jones reference teaches a data transmission apparatus (see Jones, "streaming server" column 9 line 9) which extracts content data that is a copyrighted digital work from a file, and transmits the content data to a reception apparatus (see Jones, column 8 lines 38-42, it is understood that the server is capable of extracting the media data from a QuickTime file, in which Jones' invention is directed to, in order to transmit it.)

wherein the file is made up of (i) the content data and (ii) reproduction control information used for a reproduction process of the content data, the content data and the reproduction control information being multiplexed (see Jones, figure 1 and 4), and the data transmission apparatus comprises:

a front end processing unit operable to establish and initialize a transmission path of

content data with the reception apparatus (see Jones, "Network Transmission Routine(s) 768" column 20 lines 52-55);

a control transmission unit operable to extract at least a part of the reproduction control information from the file (see Jones, "hint track" column 10 lines 37-41), and transmit the extracted information to the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 18 lines 56-58), after the transmission path is established and initialized by said front end processing unit (see Jones, "When a client...requests a presentation...the server system uses the hint" column 7 lines 58-62, it is understood that the client's request is a part of transmission protocol used to establish transmission path);

a packet generation unit operable to acquire at least a part of content data from the file, and packetize the acquired data (see Jones, "Media Processing Unit 690" figure 8); and
a content transmission unit operable to transmit at least a part of the content data which has been packetized by said packet generation unit (see Jones, "Data Communication Unit 692" figure 8).

19. **Regarding claim 2**, the Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the reproduction control information which has been multiplexed in the file is structured in a tabular form (see Jones, "(RTP hint) track" figure 4, "media information" and "sample table" figure 1), per data unit which is plurally included in the content data (see Jones, "chunk" and "media data" figure 4), said reproduction control information including reproduction control unit information (see Jones, arrows from "(RTP hint) track" point to each individual chunk in figure 4) used for reproducing from the data unit,

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said control transmission unit extracts, from the reproduction control information of the file, and transmits the reproduction control unit information related to a data unit which is requested by the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 5 lines 30-33), and said packet generation unit acquires and packetizes the content data starting from the data unit requested by the reception apparatus (see Jones, "Media Processing Unit 690" figure 8).

20. **Regarding claim 3**, the Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 2,

wherein the reproduction control unit (see Jones, "trak -- the RTP hints for the video track" column 34 line 41) information indicates details to inform a timing when a decoding process should be started on the content data (see Jones, "TIMETOSAMPLE" column 35 lines 11-17, it is understood that decoding time of samples are derived from stts box), said content data being transmitted by said content transmission unit and received by the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 8 lines 38-40).

21. **Regarding claim 9**, Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 2,

wherein the content data is moving picture data (see Jones, "media data (e.g., media files of video...)" column 17 lines 9-10) structured including a plurality of pictures (see Jones, "media data (video frames)" column 10 lines 42), and the reproduction control information is structured including the reproduction control unit information per each of the plurality of pictures included in the content data (see Jones, arrows from "(RTP hint) track" point to each individual chunk which point to each frame in figure 4).

22. **Regarding claim 10**, Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 2,

wherein the content data is moving picture data (see Jones, "media data (e.g., media files of video...)" column 17 lines 9-10) structured including a plurality of pictures (see Jones, "media data (video frames)" column 10 lines 42), and the reproduction control information is structured including the reproduction control unit information per each of the intra-picture coded pictures included in the content data (see Jones, arrows from "(RTP hint) track" point to each individual chunk which point to each frame in figure 4).

23. **Regarding claim 13**, Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 2,

wherein the content data is moving picture data including a scene made up of a plurality of consecutive pictures as the data unit (see Jones, "chunk", column 4 lines 55-56), and the reproduction control information indicates information which is necessary for initialization in decoding the plurality of pictures that make up said each scene (see Jones, "(RTP hint) track" figure 4).

24. **Regarding claim 14**, Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the content data is moving picture data structured including a plurality of pictures(see Jones, "media data (e.g., media files of video...)" column 17 lines 9-10), and the reproduction control information indicates a cycle of pictures which can be randomly accessed among said plurality of pictures (see Jones, "SYNCSAMPLE"

column 33 lines 26-29, it is known in the art that sync sample provides marking of random access point within a stream).

25. **Regarding claim 15**, Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the reproduction control information multiplexed in the file is reproduction control unit information used for reproducing from one predetermined data unit included in the content data (see Jones, "desired starting point" column 4 lines 40-46), said control transmission unit extracts, from the file, and transmits the reproduction control unit information, according to a request from the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 18 lines 52-58), and said packet generation unit acquires and packetizes the content data from the data unit, according to a request from the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 18 lines 52-58).

26. **Regarding claim 16**, Jones reference teaches a method for transmitting data, in which content data that is a copyrighted digital work is extracted from a file and transmitted to a reception apparatus (see Jones, column 8 lines 38-42, it is understood that the server is capable of extracting the media data from a QuickTime file, in which Jones' invention is directed to, in order to transmit it.), wherein the file is made up of (i) the content data and (ii) reproduction control information used for a reproduction process of the content data, the content data and the reproduction control information being multiplexed (see Jones, figure 4), and the method for transmitting data comprises:

a front end processing step of establishing and initializing a transmission path of content data with the reception apparatus (see Jones, "Network Transmission Routine(s) 768" column 20 lines 52-55);

a control transmission step of extracting at least a part of the reproduction control information from the file (see Jones, "hint track" column 10 lines 37-41), and transmitting the extracted information to the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 18 lines 56-58), after the transmission path is established and initialized by said front end processing step (see Jones, "When a client...requests a presentation...the server system uses the hint" column 7 lines 58-62, it is understood that the client's request is a part of transmission protocol used to establish transmission path);

a packet generation step of acquiring at least a part of content data from the file, and packetizing the acquired data (see Jones, "Media Processing Unit 690" figure 8); and
a content transmission step of transmitting at least a part of the content data which has been packetized by said packet generation unit (see Jones, "Data Communication Unit 692" figure 8).

27. **Regarding claim 17**, Jones reference teaches the method for transmitting data according to Claim 16,

wherein the reproduction control information which has been multiplexed in the file is structured in a tabular form (see Jones, "(RTP hint) track" figure 4, "media information" and "sample table" figure 1), per data unit which is plurally included in the content data (see Jones, "chunk" and "media data" figure 4), including reproduction control unit

information used for reproducing from the data unit (see Jones, arrows from "(RTP hint) track" point to each individual chunk in figure 4),
said control transmission step extracts, from the reproduction control information of the file, and transmits the reproduction control unit information related to a data unit which is requested by the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 5 lines 30-33), and
said packet generation step acquires and packetizes the content data from the data unit requested by the reception apparatus (see Jones, "Media Processing Unit 690" figure 8).

28. **Regarding claim 18**, Jones reference teaches the method for transmitting data according to Claim 17,
wherein the reproduction control unit information indicates details to inform the content data of a timing when a reproduction process should be started (see Jones, "stts...TIMETOSAMPLE" column 35 lines 11-17, it is understood that decoding time of samples are derived from stts box), said content data transmitted by said content transmission step and stored by the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 18 lines 1-2, 5-9).

29. **Regarding claim 19**, Jones reference teaches a program for extracting content data that is a copyrighted digital work from a file (see Jones, "Media Packetization Routine(s) see Jones, "Network Transmission Routine(s) 768" figure 12), Based on Hints 770" figure 13, it is understood that the server is capable of extracting the media data from a QuickTime file, in which Jones' invention is directed to, in order to transmit it.), and transmitting the extracted data to a reception apparatus (see Jones, "Network

Transmission Routine(s) 768" figure 13),

wherein the file is made up of (i) the content data and (ii) reproduction control information used for a reproduction process of the content data, the content data and the reproduction control information being multiplexed (see Jones, figure 4), and the method for transmitting data causes a computer to execute:

a front end processing step of establishing and initializing a transmission path of content data with the reception apparatus (see Jones, "Network Transmission Routine(s) 768" figure 13);

a control transmission step of extracting at least a part of the reproduction control information from the file (see Jones, "hint track" column 10 lines 37-41), and transmitting the extracted information to the reception apparatus (see Jones, column 18 lines 56-58), after the transmission path is established and initialized by said front end processing step (see Jones, "When a client...requests a presentation...the server system uses the hint" column 7 lines 58-62, it is understood that the client's request is a part of transmission protocol used to establish transmission path);

a packet generation step of acquiring at least a part of content data from the file, and packetizing the acquired data (see Jones, "Media Packetization Routine(s), Based on Hints 770" figure 13); and

a content transmission step of transmitting at least a part of the content data which has been packetized by said packet generation unit (see Jones, "Network Transmission Routine(s) 768" figure 13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

30. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

31. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,243) in view of Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0004992).

32. **Regarding claim 4**, the Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 3. However, Jones reference discloses timing information as lapse of time between successive decoding times and therefore, does not teach the reproduction control unit information indicates, as the details to inform the timing, a time from a reception start of the content data to a start of the decoding process executed by the reception apparatus. Such limitation is taught by Matsui reference (see Matsui, page 2 [0014] "when a predetermined period of time has passed after detection of the beginning of received reproduction data"). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have specified a lapse of time from data reception before decoding process time can start in order to avoid a need for retransmission when the data packet arrives at the receiver after the time indicated by the decoding timestamp.

33. **Regarding claim 5**, the Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 3. Even though Jones transmitter sends the amount of

data in each sample packet with the header information however, Jones reference does not disclose that amount as a way to control the start of decoding process. Conversely, Matsui reference teaches a method of using comparison between the current amount of data in the buffer and a predetermined amount to control when decoding process should start instead of relying on decoding timestamp (see Matsui, page 2 [0015]) thus, teaches the reproduction control unit information indicates a data amount of the content data received by the reception apparatus as the details to inform the timing. It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have replaced Jones' decoding timestamp with data amount as a control value to indicate when to start the decoding process in order to avoid packet lost when it arrives after the specified decoding time due to transport delay.

34. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,243) in view of Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0004992) as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Harumoto et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0004840).

35. **Regarding claim 6**, the Jones and Matsui references teach the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 5. Matsui further teaches controlling the start of decoding process by waiting for predetermined lapse of time from a reception start of the content data to a start of the decoding process executed by the reception apparatus (see Matsui, page 2 [0014] "when a predetermined period of time has passed after detection of the beginning of received reproduction data"). However, neither Jones nor Matsui teach of a control transmission unit that converts the data amount indicated

by the reproduction control unit information into the time from the reception start of the content data to the start of the decoding process executed by the reception apparatus, and transmits the converted reproduction control unit information. Conversely, the Harumoto reference discloses a determination method that determines a delay time to wait before decoding start by "dividing the buffer capacity by the transmission capacity" (see Harumoto, column 4 lines 15-20). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art to have used Harumoto's determination step in calculating the Jone's decoding timestamp in order to avoid extra cost due to the additional unit required to detect and compare the current buffer usage with the specified amount.

36. **Regarding claim 7**, the Jones, Matsui, and Harumoto references teach the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 6. Furthermore, Harumoto specifically teaches a control transmission unit that converts the reproduction control unit information, according to a transmission state of the content data which is transmitted by said content transmission unit (see Harumoto, "transmission capacity" column 4 lines 15-20). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art to have used Harumoto's determination step in calculating the Jone's decoding timestamp in order to avoid extra cost due to the additional unit required to detect and compare the current buffer usage with the specified amount and to adapt to variation of transmission rate to better utilize the Jone's receiver's buffer.

37. **Regarding claim 8**, the Jones, Matsui, and Harumoto references teach the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 7. Harumoto reference further discloses a server that has "control means for controlling a transmission speed based on a target

value and a delay time when transmitting the stream data" wherein the target value is determined according to the transmission capacity (see Harumoto, column 27 lines 36-39). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have incorporated this control means in Jones' streaming server in order to better utilize the receiver's storage and also avoid worsening performance of the transmission path.

38. Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,243) in view of Singer et al. ("Proposed Revised Common Text Multimedia File Format Specification").

39. **Regarding claim 11**, Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the content data is moving picture data structured including a plurality of pictures (see Jones, "media data (e.g., media files of video...)" column 17 lines 9-10). the reproduction control unit information indicates whether or not a correct result of decoding process can be acquired from a head picture of the data unit (see Singer, Shadow Sync Sample Box, section 8.21). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have used the media file format as described in Singer reference in Jones' system because they are essentially the same media format. The Singer reference explains in further details, the content in each box cited in Jones reference.

40. **Regarding claim 12**, Jones reference teaches the data transmission apparatus according to Claim 2,

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wherein the content data is moving picture data structured including a plurality of pictures (see Jones, "media data (e.g., media files of video...)" column 17 lines 9-10). However, while Jones reference does not explicitly disclose, the Singer reference discloses the reproduction control unit information indicates a part where a correct result of decoding process can be first acquired in the case where a decoding process is started from a head picture of the data unit (see Singer, "This box maps samples that are not random access points to alternate samples that are" page 43 line 2). It would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have used the media file format as described in Singer reference in Jones' system because they are essentially the same media format. The Singer reference explains in further details, the content in each box cited in Jones reference.

Conclusion

41. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Ohlenroth et al. reference teaches packetization of MPEG-4 streams into RTP packets as cited by the applicant's specification. It also recites why RTSP messages and RTP packets should be handle separately in different dedicated threads.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOUPAPORN NILANONT whose telephone number is

(571)270-5655. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and alternate Friday at 7:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Robertson can be reached on 571-272-4186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Y. N./
Youpaporn Nilanont
8/15/2008
Examiner, Art Unit 4121

/David L. Robertson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 4121